The outstanding feature of the period 1750-1914 was the rapid growth of European populations, based on a reduction of the death-rate, especially the infantile death-rate; it started in the West, spread eastward, and was followed, and ultimately checked, by a fall in the birth-rate. Possibly the complex of phenomena described as "progress", which, at one time, seemed to us a law of human nature and history, was basically connected with the rapid growth of population. This called for expansion and change, for thought, research, and freedom; and these principles being dominant were carried, by a curious process of percolation common in the history of human thought, into every province of life. At the same time there occurred an enormous growth of cities; mass-migrations overseas; a widening of the "political nation'[5]; a strong increase in the numbers of the professional intelligentsia and black-coated workers—all this against the background of the capitalist system, based at first on freedom of trade and competition, but hardening subsequently into nationalized or trustified organizations.

Two races headed the movement, though under vastly different conditions—the British and the Jews; they were the pioneers of capitalism, and its first, and perhaps chief, beneficiaries. They were the first to reduce their death-rate, and to achieve a great natural increase; a greater proportion from among them emigrated than from any

other nation; they are now the two most urban communities; and the two most widely scattered in the world; have the largest percentage of black-coated workers and professional intelligentsia; and are threatened by the rise of the corresponding classes in countries in which they live dispersed. They have worked for other nations, not for profit only, but with an idealism for which they are seldom given credit, and have rendered services—the Jews among the white races and the British in dark continents—f or which they are not thanked; and they have both preached ideas of world-wide freedom and world-wide co-operation, on which the others have